



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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Disaster Field Office

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FEMA-1502-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #3

Tuesday, December 30, 2003

1. Situation

A severe storm system moved into the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 18 and 19, 2003 dumping up to 4.28 inches of rain in 12 hours resulting in flash floods through the southwestern part of Virginia. Two young children in Buchanan County died when their home was washed away by a flash flood. Preliminary assessments indicated the most severe impacts were to single-family residences, manufactured homes and private access bridges. Several apartment buildings with major damage were also identified, as well as damage to sewer pipes and private wells.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Smyth and Tazewell, and the cities of Galax and Radford on November 20. After evaluations by Preliminary Damage Assessment teams, Governor Warner requested a federal disaster declaration on November 26. On December 9, a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1502-DR-VA) was granted to Virginia for Individual Assistance in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Smyth and Tazewell, and the city of Galax. Effective December 21, the US Homeland Security advisory level and the Virginia threat advisory level were raised from yellow (elevated) to orange (high).

2. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives

- ☐ Ensure safety and security of field staff.
- ☐ Ensure priority handling of individual disaster victims.
- ☐ Develop of mitigation success stories.
- ☐ Implement an External Affairs strategy that will proactively manage public expectations through targeted media releases and appropriate staffing of public meetings and support all recovery program elements.
- ☐ Determine closure date for Bluefield DRC.
- ☐ Identify need for additional DRCs.

3. Recovery Activities

A. Human Services

i. Teleregistrations

- ☐ New teleregistrations since last reporting period amount to **46** for a total of **453** registrations at COB **December 29**. See Attachment 1 for teleregistrations by designated jurisdictions.

“Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities”

- ❑ Individuals can register immediately for FEMA assistance by calling (800) 621-FEMA or TTY (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. Lines are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ***Monday through Friday. The teleregistration line will be closed on Thursday, January 1.***

ii. **Small Business Administration** (as of COB 12/29/03)

	Issued	Received	#Approved	\$ Approved	Declined	Withdrawn	Pending
Home	<i>143</i>	<i>8</i>	0	\$0	<i>1</i>	0	7
Business	<i>43</i>	<i>3</i>	0	\$0	0	0	<i>3</i>
EIDL	0	<i>3</i>	0	\$0	0	0	<i>3</i>
TOTAL	<i>186</i>	<i>14</i>	0	\$0	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>12</i>

iii. **Individuals and Households Program (IHP)**

(a) **Housing**

- ❑ Temporary housing assistance disbursed to date – ***\$531,889.92.***
- ❑ More than 76 homes destroyed, 149 homes with major damage, 255 with minor damage and 128 homes affected. Losses estimated are at \$10,283,389. More than 47 businesses were affected by the incident, including three destroyed. Estimated losses amount to \$2,681,000.

(b) **Other Needs Assistance**

Amount Referrals Approved:	\$0.00
Amount Referrals Disbursed:	\$0.00
Total Referrals Received:	<i>184</i>
Total Referrals Approved:	0
Total Referrals Ineligible:	<i>58</i>
Total Referrals Withdrawn:	<i>7</i>
Total Referrals Pending	<i>119</i>

iv. **Disaster Recovery Centers**

(a) **Bluefield DRC**

- ❑ One DRC is open at Kroger Plaza, Bldg. 713, S. College Ave. in Bluefield. ***The DRC will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 31 and January 2. The DRC will be closed Thursday, January 1 and Sunday, January 4.***
- ❑ Between December 23 through 29, ***20*** walk-ins visited the DRC for a total of ***65*** to date.
- ❑ ***The DRC is tentatively scheduled to close on Friday, January 9.***

v. **Disaster Unemployment Insurance**

- ❑ Individuals in the declared jurisdictions can submit Disaster Unemployment Assistance applications at the nearest Virginia Employment Commission office through January 15.

B. Mitigation

- ❑ Strategy complete.
- ❑ Met with City of Galax officials regarding the National Flood Insurance Program and its benefits.
- ❑ Attended and spoke at Giles County “Town Meeting” regarding the registration process, flood insurance and mitigation for homeowners.
- ❑ Performed Community Assistance Visit with Giles County planner, assistant county administrator and county planner. Covered substantial damage, ICC, venting, elevation certificates, etc.

Updated Information is **bold** and *italicized*.

C. Legislative Liaison

- ☐ *Responded to an inquiry from Carroll County representative involving constituent(s) in a non-designated locality who suffered real property damage in the floods on November 19. This matter is still pending.*

D. Community Relations

- ☐ *Contacts were made in Tazewell County, Town of Bluefield and the Springfield community.*
- ☐ *Visited the family whose sons were lost; forms and procedures were explained and questions answered.*
- ☐ Distribution of flyers and personal contacts ongoing in Smyth County.
- ☐ *CR activity completed on December 29.*

E. Public Affairs

- ☐ Issued Press Releases on:
 - ☐ *“What to Expect When a FEMA Inspector Comes to Your Home.”*

F. Disaster Recovery Task Forces

- ☐ Met with interfaith agencies in Pearisburg on December 18 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Local Recovery Task Force in Giles County.
- ☐ Met with interfaith agencies in Galax on December 18 to discuss the possibility of establishing a Local Recovery Task Force in the city of Galax.
- ☐ Contacted officials in Bland County to schedule a meeting after the holidays to establish a Local Recovery Task Force.

G. Resources

- ☐ The Disaster Coordination Center in Bluefield is supported daily by the Virginia Departments of:

Emergency Management	2
Fire Programs	0
<u>Social Services (at DRC)</u>	<u>1</u>
Total (as of <i>December 30</i> , 2003)	3

- ☐ Disaster Field Office resources are reported on the Situation Report for FEMA-1491-DR-VA.

H. State Coordinating Officer

- ☐ *A Deputy State Coordinating Officer will appear on Roanoke’s WBRA TV on January 7 at 5:30 p.m.*

I. Commonwealth Situation Reports

- ☐ Situation reports are being prepared and distributed weekly on Tuesdays.
- ☐ *Operations at the (Bluefield) Disaster Coordination Center will cease on December 31.*
- ☐ The (Richmond) Disaster Field Office’s operational hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Telephones are answered from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. *The Disaster Field office will be closed on Thursday, January 1.*

Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator

/s/ Harry E. Colestock III, Deputy State Coordinating Officer

Attachment 1 – Teleregistrations
As of COB *December 30*

Designated Jurisdictions	Daily On 12/30	Cumulative
Bland	2	41
Buchanan	3	28
Galax (city)	3	22
Giles	1	49
Smyth	3	52
Tazewell	13	250
Total	25	442

Undesignated Jurisdictions	Daily On 12/30	Cumulative
Carroll	0	1
Craig	0	1
Hanover	0	1
Henry	0	1
Lexington (City)	0	1
Newport News (City)	0	1
Prince Edward	0	1
Radford	0	1
San Juan (Municipio)	0	1
Spotsylvania	0	1
Total	0	10